



DECEMBER TIP SAVINGS: \$300 - \$400/YR + \$500 rebate
Avoided Emissions of CO₂: Up to 275 lbs./YR

\$USTAINABILITY \$AVINGS TIP

WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING FOR THE ARIZONA DESERT

Xeriscape tips to gain water, time, and money savings

The approaching holiday in December means that visitors are starting to arrive. This makes it a great time to get out and enjoy the natural beauty of the Arizona desert. The mountains, canyons and sculptural plants aren't just beautiful; they can also provide a useful model for your own landscape.

One popular philosophy of landscaping, called Xeriscape, embraces the desert, looks great, and is also easy to maintain! By incorporating low-water using plants and water efficient irrigation techniques, Xeriscapes are respectful of the desert in which we live and can help lower landscape watering costs. Xeriscaping is as simple as following a few basic principles.

The term Xeriscape comes from the Greek word xeros, which means dry.

XERISCAPE TIPS

1. **Landscape Planning and Design** – Create a design of how you want your landscape to look and steps for implementation. A good design can help you integrate rainwater harvesting and home energy efficiency through strategic placement of plants for shade.
2. **Low Water-Use Plants** – Desert plants come in all shapes and sizes. They contribute to a low-water and low-maintenance landscape that fits in with the natural environment and replaces lost habitat.
3. **Efficient Irrigation** – Use water-efficient drip irrigation systems. Try to put different sizes and types of plants on separate valves so you can program specific irrigation run times and frequencies.
4. **Soil** – Desert plants do well in our native soils and generally don't require fertilizer. Loosen the surrounding soil at planting time to encourage spreading roots. Cover roots with mulch or compost.
5. **Appropriate Maintenance** – To keep your Xeriscape water efficient, perform proper maintenance of irrigation systems and don't over prune or over fertilize.

CHECKLIST FOR SAVINGS

- ☐ **Look into a \$500 City of Mesa Grass-to-Xeriscape rebate** at www.mesaaz.gov/conservation.
- ☐ **To learn more about Xeriscape** and bringing the natural beauty of the desert into your landscape, attend our Dec. 11 workshop, *Hot Gardens: Design Strategies for Sustainable Desert Landscapes* with Scott Calhoun. For details, visit www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability or call (480) 644-4400.
- ☐ **More information about desert plants** can be found in our free booklet, *Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert*, or online at www.amwua.org/plants_index.html.
- ☐ **Steps and tips for Xeriscaping** can be found in our free booklet, *Xeriscape: Landscaping with Style in the AZ Desert* or online at www.landscapewithstyle.com.
- ☐ **Find books on desert landscaping and watering** at City of Mesa Libraries, or visit www.mesalibrary.org/research/living-green.aspx.

\$START \$AVING

Start saving by Xeriscaping and doing your part for *building a sustainable community*. Visit our Web site for more sustainability savings tips at www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability.

Learn to live Green